



**SRO**

STATE SCHOOL REFORM/REDESIGN OFFICE  
Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget

# Unreasonable Hardship Determination Report

Saginaw High School

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February 2017

DRAFT

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## Framework

### **State School Reform/Redesign Office Background and Legal Authority**

The State School Reform/Redesign Office (SRO) was established in 2010 to serve as Michigan's academic accountability office. The mission of the SRO is to turn Michigan's Priority Schools into the highest-performing schools in Michigan. The SRO's vision is to create the necessary conditions for a globally superior public education system. To do this, the SRO uses both incentives for academic success and consequences for chronic failure. The following state and federal statutes establish the SRO and govern the office's action steps:

Michigan's Revised School Code 380.1280c: Section 1280c of the Revised School Code charges the SRO with the responsibility of identifying and supervising the lowest achieving 5% of schools (Priority Schools). Priority Schools submit reform/redesign plans to improve performance, and the SRO is granted authority to implement intervention if academic progress is not made (i.e. CEO operator for multiple schools, State School Reform/Redesign District (SSRRD), etc.). Priority Schools are required to submit monitoring reports to the SRO in a manner and frequency as determined by the SRO. The statute also provides exemptions for districts under emergency management.

Michigan's Executive Order No. 2015-9: Executive Order 2015-9 transferred the SRO from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget (DTMB). It also transferred all authority, powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities assigned to MDE and the Superintendent of Public Instruction under MCL 380.1280c to the SRO.

Michigan Public Act 192 (i.e. Enrolled House Bill 5384): The law divides the Detroit Public School District (DPS) into two separate districts and requires the SRO to mandate school closures via specified stipulations.

Under these statutes, the State School Reform/Redesign Office must make notifications and issue orders to Public School Academy Authorizers and/or Traditional Public School Superintendents/Board Presidents establishing different levels of accountability based on the performance of the schools they operate/authorize.

### **Purpose**

On January 20, 2017, the SRO published the order subjecting **Saginaw High School** to a Next Level of Accountability pending an Unreasonable Hardship Determination as required under subsection 391(3), MCL 380.391(3). The purpose of this report is to:

- Outline the Unreasonable Hardship Review Process
- Detail the findings of the Unreasonable Hardship Review
- Publish the final Unreasonable Hardship Determination for **Saginaw High School**, and
- Detail next steps that the SRO recommends in light of the final Unreasonable Hardship Determination.



### Unreasonable Hardship Review Process

In accordance with MCL 380.391(3), the SRO must complete an analysis of whether closure of **Saginaw High School** will result in unreasonable hardship to pupils attending **Saginaw High School**. The SRO will consider other public school options available to students in the grade levels offered and geographic area served by the public school identified for closure to determine if closing the identified school(s) would result in an unreasonable hardship for the impacted students. The SRO is committed to ensuring that the closure of a failing school does not necessitate the enrollment of a displaced student in another failing school. The SRO's Unreasonable Hardship Review will consist of three parts:

1. **Part 1:** A comprehensive review of all available data related to the past and current performance of the identified school(s)
2. **Part 2:** An academic and an operational on-site review
3. **Part 3:** A detailed examination of other public school options available to students in the grade levels offered and geographic area served by the public school identified for closure.

A set of research-based Turnaround Practices served as the framework for the SRO's Unreasonable Hardship Review. The Turnaround Practices<sup>1</sup> are based on both academic and practice-based research on the common characteristics of successful turnaround schools and are organized into five different domains:

- **Domain 1:** Leadership, Shares Responsibility, and Professional Collaboration
- **Domain 2:** Intentional Practices for Improving Instruction
- **Domain 3:** Providing Student-Specific Supports and Instruction to All Students
- **Domain 4:** School Climate and Culture
- **Domain 5:** District System: Districts develop systems to support, monitor, and sustain turnaround efforts

By structuring the SRO's Unreasonable Hardship Review around these domains the SRO is acknowledging that in determining unreasonable hardship one must not only examine historic performance but must also work intimately with local community members and educators to determine if the academic and operational realities of the identified school reflective of a school poised for rapid turnaround.

All of the information produced and insights gained from the Unreasonable Hardship Review Process have informed the SRO's Final Unreasonable Hardship Determination, which consists of a series of 3 Key Questions:

- **Question 1:** Are the academic and operational realities of the identified school reflective of a school poised for rapid turnaround?
- **Question 2:** Are there are sufficient other public school options reasonably available to these pupils?
- **Question 3:** Would the proposed NLA action result in an unreasonable hardship to the displaced pupils?

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<sup>1</sup> See Edmonds, 1979; Bryk et al., 2010; Marzano, 2003; Newmann et al., 2001; Lane et al., 2014)

## Unreasonable Hardship Review Part 1: Data Review

In an effort to inform the Unreasonable Hardship Determination, the SRO requested a comprehensive set of both academic, cultural, and operational data from **Saginaw High School**. The data provided can be viewed in Appendix A. In reviewing this data as well as previously state-reported academic data, the SRO has identified the following Key Takeaways related to the past, and current realities of **Saginaw High School**.

### Data Review Key Takeaways

- **Academic (Domains 2 and 3)**
  - Proficiency
    - From 2015 and 2016 the percent of students demonstrated proficiency in Mathematics increased from [REDACTED] 5%
    - From 2015 and 2016 the percent of students with disabilities demonstrated proficiency in Mathematics increased from 9% to 13%
    - From 2015 and 2016 the percent of students demonstrated proficiency in ELA increased from [REDACTED] to 14%
    - Proficiency in Science in 2016 was [REDACTED]
    - Proficiency in Science in 2016 was [REDACTED]
  - Career and College Readiness
    - Based upon proficiency rates in 2016 across all subjects less than 5% of 2017 graduating students are Career and College Ready
  - Graduation Rate
    - Graduation rate in 2015 was 79.5%; similar to 2014 at 81.0%
- **Climate and Culture (Domains 3 and 4)**
  - Enrollment
    - Enrollment has decreased from 643 students in 2014 to 580 students in 2016.
  - Attendance
    - The attendance rates for the last three years are all just above 90%.
    - The chronically absent rate was about 43% in 2016.
- **Professional (Domains 1 and 5)**
  - Teacher Evaluation
    - Approximately 97% of teachers were deemed Effective or Highly Effective in 2016.



## Unreasonable Hardship Review Part 2a: Academic On-Site Review

On February 13, 2017, two representatives of the SRO conducted the Academic On-Site Review for **Saginaw High School**. The purpose of this visit was to gain current and school-specific information related to the current academic realities of **Saginaw High School** from its building leaders, teachers, parents and community members. The Academic On-Site Review was structured as follows:

- Interviews with Building Leadership
- Building Walk-Through with Classroom Observations
- Teacher Leader Focus Group
- Student Focus Group
- Parent/Community Focus Group

In a letter sent on January 23, 2017, the SRO requested that **Saginaw High School** nominate both teacher leaders as well as parents and community members to participate in the Academic On-Site Review.

The review was structured around the research-based Turnaround Practices and questions that served to frame both the interviews as well as the focus group discussions. Responses from each conversation were analyzed and evaluated for their alignment with key indicators of best practices for high-gain, rapid turnaround schools. The following pages provide the results from the site visit. Rubric ratings (see below) and corresponding evidence (in bulleted form) is provided for each Turnaround Practice component.

### Rubric Descriptors

<u>Strong alignment with best practice</u>	<u>Moderate alignment with best practice</u>	<u>Low alignment with best practice</u>
All indicators are evident and there is strong evidence that key structures and practices are being used effectively to improve instruction.	Some of the indicators are evident and there is some evidence that key structures and practices are being used effectively to improve instruction.	A few or none of the indicators are evident and/or there is little to no evidence that key structures and practices are being used effectively.

A key purpose of the site visit is to assess each school's capacity to engage in accelerated turnaround and to inform decisions regarding unreasonable hardship. As such, site reviewers and the SRO are focused on the following overarching questions.

#### Domain 1: Leadership, Shares Responsibility, and Professional Collaboration

- Does the school have a collaborative environment (e.g., sufficient teaming structures and ways of working together) that can lead to accelerated instructional improvement?
- Does the school leadership have systems in place to monitor and support the implementation of improvement strategies, including the use of frequent classroom observations?

#### Domain 2: Intentional Practices for Improving Instruction

- Does the school utilize a common core curriculum that is instructionally coherent and that displays a strong understanding of high quality instruction, among teachers and as supported and observed by administrators?
- Does school leadership have a system in place to identify teachers that may need additional support, and specific strategies for providing such support?

#### Domain 3: Providing Student-Specific Supports and Instruction to All Students

- Does the school have and actively utilize a system of assessments and interventions capable of providing student-specific supports and subsequent monitoring of the effectiveness of interventions?

#### Domain 4: School Climate and Culture

- Does the school provide a safe, orderly, and respectful environment for students and a collegial and professional culture among adults?

## Determining Capacity for Successful Turnaround

**Key Question 1:** What are the core issues and challenges that have kept students at your school from achieving? How are you addressing these issues and challenges?

**Key Question 2:** What are the key practices and strategies that distinguish your school, and will allow your school to improve, leading to increased student achievement in the near future?

	Alignment with Best Practice
<b>Adaptive Instructional Improvement</b> All stakeholders espouse an “improvement mindset” reflected in the school’s continuous review and assessment of improvement practices and strategies used within the school. <b>Key Indicators</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school stops or modifies strategies that are not working and expands those that are working.</li> </ul>	
<b>Respectful and Trusting Learning Environment</b> All stakeholders (students, teachers, community members, etc.) have high expectations for students and value working with and learning from each other. <b>Key Indicators</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents and students state that they believe that all of the students in the school will succeed (e.g., will do well in classes, graduate, attend and graduate college).</li> <li>Teachers and administrators work together in formal and informal teams on a regular basis.</li> </ul>	
<b>Instructional Rigor</b> Instruction and instructional practices are engaging, differentiated, and sufficiently challenging for all students. <b>Key Indicators</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers provide all students with lessons and instruction directly aligned with common core standards and aligned instructional practices.</li> <li>Written lessons and taught instruction includes stated and written learning objectives, multiple instructional strategies, and challenging (e.g., higher order) tasks, problems, and questioning strategies.</li> </ul>	
<b>Targeted Interventions</b> The school expertly uses specific instructional strategies/interventions executed with a high degree of instructional expertise. <b>Key Indicators</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student work is consistently improving.</li> <li>Instructional strategies and interventions are implemented with fidelity.</li> </ul>	

### Challenges

- Human Capital
  - Staff turnover and retaining certified teachers



- Addressing the problem: District worked to hire staff, assigned mentors to teachers, training/PD
- Gaps in student learning
  - Administration and teacher changes, instability, test scores
  - Addressing the problem: Training new staff, common planning time for teachers, after school tutoring, academic interventionists, aligning curriculum, test prep
- Behavior
  - Referrals and suspensions
  - Addressing the problem: Behavior interventionist, Intervention Team, starting the Early Warning System, behavior intervention plans, restorative practices and circles
- Attendance
  - Absenteeism and truancy
  - Addressing the problem: Truancy officer, google classroom app, folder in office for make-up work, push back assignment dates, teachers help after school and at lunch

#### Key Practices and Strategies

- MTSS
- MAISA units
- Interventionists for academics and behavior
- Google Classroom
- ILCs and PLCs
- Restorative practices
- Academic intervention courses for 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> graders
- College Board and Khan Academy
- Increased focus on academic intervention
- Word Splash



**Turnaround Strategy Domain 1: Leadership, Shared Responsibility, and Professional Collaboration**

The school has established a community of practice through leadership, shared responsibility, and professional collaboration.

**Key Question:** How, and to what extent, do you (and your leadership team) cultivate shared ownership, responsibility, and professional collaboration in the school?

Turnaround Strategy Components	Alignment with Best Practice
<p><b>Teaming, Shared Leadership and Responsibility, and Collaboration</b></p> <p>Distributed leadership structures and practices are apparent throughout the school building in the form of an active and well-represented Leadership Team and grade-level and vertical teams.</p> <p>Key indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school leadership team meets regularly and includes representation from all grades and student needs.</li> <li>• Grade-level and vertical teams meet regularly.</li> <li>• Teams exhibit a strong commitment to high expectations for all students and a willingness to work together to improve instruction.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Using Teams, Shared Leadership, and a Collaborative and Trusting Environment to Accelerate Improvement</b></p> <p>Administrators and teachers (through teacher teams or involvement in the leadership team) are monitoring and assessing the implementation and impact of key improvement strategies, use of resources, classroom instructional practices, and non-academic supports on student achievement.</p> <p>Key indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adaptation:</b> Leadership has the demonstrated ability to adapt, innovate and do whatever it takes to improve student achievement.</li> <li>• <b>Instructional Observation:</b> Instruction is formally and informally observed and meaningful feedback is provided. Teachers, as well as students, are held to high expectations.</li> </ul>	

- PLCs: subject and grade level meetings to discuss data, strategies and common assessments
- ILCs: make teaching decisions based on pre and post tests and data
- Leadership team meets bi-weekly
- SAT prep schedule: transition every five weeks, teachers present different test taking strategies
- Administration participates in the PDs along with teaching staff
- Staff reported that they are working with an author of a book they're currently focused on to gain a deeper knowledge on turnaround.

**Turnaround Strategy Domain 2: Intentional Practices for Improving Instruction**

The school uses an aligned system of common core curricula, assessments, and common instructional practices across the school and content areas, and employs intentional practices for improving teacher-specific and student-responsive instruction.

**Key Question:** What are the strategies and practices that you and your colleagues use to improve instruction? Specifically, how do you work to improve teachers' instruction?

Turnaround Strategy Components	Alignment with Best Practice
<p><b>Common core curriculum and aligned and rigorous instructional practices.</b></p> <p>Administrators and teachers develop and use vertically and horizontally aligned curricula and instructional strategies that includes common units, lessons, assessments, and instructional strategies and language within and across grades and content areas.</p> <p>Key indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers' unit and lesson plans are similarly structured, incorporating best practices, directly linking lesson content with the grade-level standards and standards taught in prior and subsequent grades.</li> <li>A common set of instructional strategies, academic language, and other learning tools are evident in lessons and in practice, to enable students to access content.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Defined expectations for high quality instructional practices</b></p> <p>The school has a clear instructional focus and shared expectations for instructional best practices that address students' instructional needs.</p> <p>Key indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaders and teachers understand the instructional focus and how the instructional focus informs (or is evident in) classroom practice.</li> <li>Teachers have received training and professional development on the instruction focus and related instructional strategies.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Teacher support and feedback to improve instruction</b></p> <p>Teachers are actively supported to develop high quality lessons, deliver high quality lessons and instruction and to become experts in using and refining effective instructional strategies.</p> <p>Key indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The principal (or administrators or coaches) spend significant time in classrooms, observing teachers' instruction and providing teachers with constructive and useful feedback on instructional practices.</li> <li>Teachers (and teacher team) use a variety of standards-based assessments to assess the effectiveness of instructional strategies and modify instruction accordingly.</li> </ul>	

- Sharing strategies and collaborating in PLCs
- Increasing the use of formative assessments
- Math coach
- Small groups and direct instruction



### Turnaround Strategy Domain 3: *Providing Student-Specific Supports and Instruction to All Students*

The school is able to provide student-specific supports and interventions informed by data and the identification of student-specific needs

**Key Question:** How, and to what extent, does your school provide student-specific supports and interventions to students?

Turnaround Strategy Components	Alignment with Best Practice
<p><b>Tiered and Targeted Interventions for Students and Monitoring for Effectiveness</b></p> <p>The school has a system (structures, practices, resources) for providing targeted instructional interventions and supports to all students which also includes close monitoring of the impact of tiered interventions on students' progress.</p> <p>Key indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students are provided with targeted, student-specific instruction and interventions in direct response to their academic areas of need, rather than placing entire groups of students in intervention groups.</li> <li>The impact of classroom-based and tiered interventions is frequently monitored (e.g., regularly, in 2, 4, or 6 week intervals and often by grade-level teams or by school support teams) and then refined in direct response to students' needs.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Data Use and Data Informed Targeting of Interventions</b></p> <p>Administrators and teachers use a variety of ongoing assessments (formative, benchmark, and summative) to frequently and continually assess instructional effectiveness and to identify students' individual academic needs.</p> <p>Key indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A variety of valid and reliable assessments (standards-based and performance assessments) are used consistently, within and across grades and content area.</li> <li>Administrators and teachers are using assessment to identify the specific students needing additional support and the targeted areas of need for each specific student.</li> </ul>	

- Academic interventionists (math and ELA)
- Students are placed in groups for tiered instruction for 30 minutes per day
- Some groupings based on PSAT scores
- MTSS



**Turnaround Strategy Domain 4: School Climate and Culture**

The school has established a climate and culture that provides a safe, orderly and respectful environment for students and a collegial, collaborative, and professional culture among teachers that supports the school's focus on increasing student achievement.

**Key Question:** How does your school attend to students' social-emotional health and establish a safe, orderly, and respectful environment for students?

Turnaround Strategy Components	Alignment with Best Practice
<p><b>Safety and secure learning environment.</b> The school has established and provides a safe and secure learning environment for students, staff and community members.</p> <p>Key indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student to student interaction and teacher to student interactions are respectful and considerate, as observed during the visit.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Shared Behavioral Expectations that support student learning</b> Administrators and teachers have and use a clearly established set of behavioral expectations and practices that supports students' learning.</p> <p>Key indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expectations of student behavior are written and clearly shared and understood throughout the school building.</li> <li>• Behavioral expectations are reinforced through consistently applied rewards and consequences (consistent among and across teachers and grades).</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Targeted and effective social-emotional supports</b> The school has identified, established, and proactively provides effective social-emotional resources and supports for students in need of such supports and assistance.</p> <p>Key indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school has identified a wide array of effective social-emotional responses and supports for students in need of such assistance and support.</li> <li>• Students that may need or benefit from social-emotional supports are identified and receive targeted social-emotional support.</li> <li>• Data on the effectiveness of social-emotional supports is collected and monitored.</li> </ul>	

- Restorative practice and circles
- LINKS program
- Behavior interventionist
- School- based health center
- Teen Advisory Council
- Parent liaison and training
- Remind system app

### Turnaround Strategy Domain 5: *District System to Support Accelerated Improvement and Turnaround*

The district has developed systems for identifying schools that are not performing well, and strategies for monitoring and supporting school leadership and teachers.

Examples of district systems:

- Strategic placement and assignment of principals and teachers in high need schools, including the use of incentives to get the right leaders and teachers in high need schools.
- Provision of additional staffing and resource autonomy to leaders in high need schools
- Provision of additional supports (e.g., coaching supports, instructional resources) to high need schools.

#### Key Questions:

- How does the district monitor and/or support you in your efforts to improve instruction and raise student achievement?
- To what extent has the district provided you with additional autonomy to make changes to staff (e.g., to hire new teachers and/or quickly remove teachers not supportive of your work), to the school's schedule, and in your use of resources? How much autonomy do you have?

	Alignment with Best Practice
<b>District Capacity - Core Functions</b> The District has established and/or provides schools with base supports necessary for effective teaching and learning (Core curriculum and professional development, assessments, data systems, instructional materials, human capital).	
<b>District capacity - Monitor and support</b> The district has established and communicated a district-wide improvement strategy, including a vision and specific goals for improvement. The improvement strategy includes specific strategies for monitoring and supporting schools (leaders, teachers, and students).	
<b>District Capacity – Conditions and Autonomy</b> The district provides schools with sufficient autonomy and authority to implement turnaround actions, while holding schools accountable for results.	

- Created positions based on need.
- District allows school to personalize needs.
- District-wide formative assessments
- Autonomy in talent management and instructional infrastructure
- One member from the leadership team reported feeling very supported by the district.

**Unreasonable Hardship Review Part 2b: Operational On-Site Review (Facility Conditions Index)**

The SRO partnered with DTMB's Facilities & Business Services Administration Office (SFA) to determine a facility conditions index (FCI) for **Saginaw High School**. The FCI measures maintenance and repair costs against current replacement cost of the building. The lower the number, the less cost effective it is for the district to keep the building open.

All inspections were designed to be non-intrusive and the results were based on observations and assumptions given the factual knowledge provided.

**FCI SCORE: 62.1**

A copy of DTMB's FCI report is attached to this report as Appendix B.

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### Unreasonable Hardship Review Part 3: Access and Availability

Whether statutorily required under MCL 380.391(3), MCL 380.507(6), MCL 380.528(6), or MCL 380.561(6), or optionally adopted under MCL 380.1280c, the SRO is committed to completing an analysis of whether the proposed closure will result in unreasonable hardship to pupils attending **Saginaw High School**. The SRO will consider other public school options available to students in the grade levels offered and geographic area served by **Saginaw High School** to determine if the closure would result in an unreasonable hardship for the impacted students. The SRO is committed to ensuring that any closure does not necessitate the enrollment of a displaced student in another failing school. When evaluating the sufficiency of other public school options for affected pupils and unreasonable hardship, the SRO evaluates a variety of factors that can generally be organized into three different categories. These categories include, but are not limited to:

- **Geography:** Are there schools within a reasonable number of miles from the school identified that serve the same grade levels as the identified school?
- **Performance:** Are there schools that were identified during the geographic evaluation that also have an acceptable Top-to-Bottom ranking?
- **Access:** Do the students that would be displaced by the NLA Action have reasonable access to the schools identified during both the geographic and performance evaluations?

The results of the SRO's analysis are included in the below table. The number of schools that meet the parameters defined in the left most two columns is included in column #3 and the estimated capacity of the qualifying schools is included in column #4. The right-most two columns define the # of qualifying schools that would not require students to utilize the schools-of-choice legislation (MCL 388.1705/MCL 388.1705c) to gain access and the estimated capacity of those qualifying schools that would not require utilization of the schools-of-choice legislation.

Distance Parameter (Maximum in miles)	TTB Ranking Parameter (Minimum)	# of Qualifying School-of-Choice Schools	Estimated Capacity of Qualifying School-of-Choice Schools	# of Qualifying Local Access Schools	Estimated Capacity of Qualifying Local Access Schools	Total # of Qualifying Schools that Displaced Students Could Access	Total Estimated Capacity of Qualifying Schools that Displaced Students Could Access
5	25	1	0	1	104	2	104
10	25	3	57	1	104	4	161
15	25	10	174	2	203	12	377
20	25	17	283	3	246	20	529
25	25	23	399	3	246	26	645
30	25	27	462	3	246	30	708

#### Unreasonable Hardship Data Key Takeaways

- There is not enough estimated capacity at qualifying school-of-choice schools with a Top-to-Bottom ranking of 25 or higher within 30 miles to accommodate the schools estimated enrollment.
- There is not enough estimated capacity at local access schools with a Top-to-Bottom ranking of 25 or higher within 30 miles to accommodate the schools estimated enrollment.
- There is not enough estimated capacity at total qualifying schools that displaced students could access with a Top-to-Bottom ranking of 25 or higher within 20 miles to accommodate the schools estimated enrollment.

**Unreasonable Hardship Review Part 4: Final Determination**

The SRO's Final Unreasonable Hardship Determination is based on a comprehensive review of all available data, the results from both operational and academic on-site review visits and an examination the other public school options that are available to the students that would be impacted by the closure of **Saginaw High School**. All of the information produced and insights gained from the Unreasonable Hardship Review Process that have been detailed in this report, were considered when answering the three key questions that comprise the SRO's Final Unreasonable Hardship Determination.

**Question 1:** Are the academic and operational and academic realities of the identified school reflective of a school poised for rapid turnaround?

	The academic and operational realities of the identified school reflective of a school poised for rapid turnaround.
	The academic but not the operational realities of the identified school reflective of a school poised for rapid turnaround
	The operational but not the academic realities of the identified school reflective of a school poised for rapid turnaround
	Neither the academic nor the operational realities of the identified school reflective of a school poised for rapid turnaround

**Question 2:** Are there are sufficient other public school options reasonably available to these pupils?

	There are sufficient other public school options reasonably available to these pupils?
	There are insufficient other public school options reasonably available to these pupils?

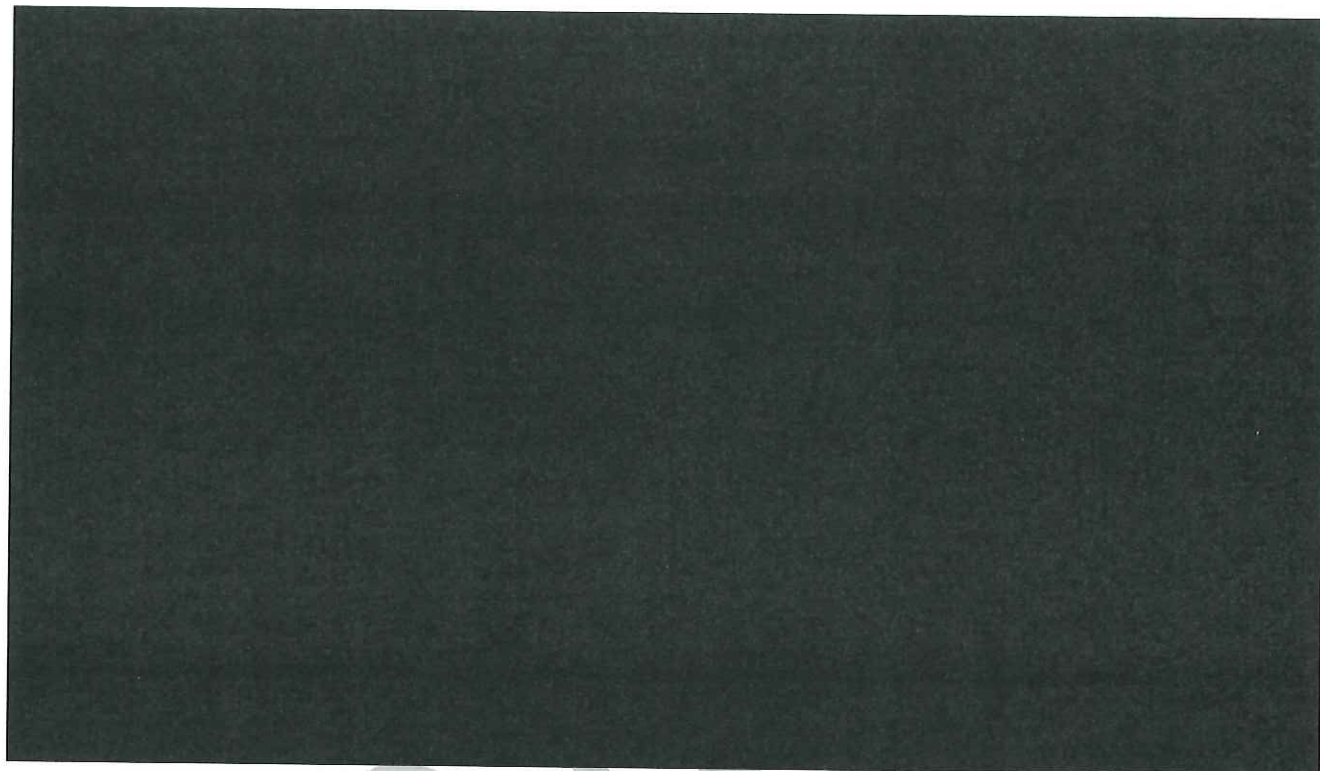
**Question 3:** Would the proposed NLA action result in an unreasonable hardship to the displaced pupils?

	The proposed NLA action would not result in an unreasonable hardship to the displaced pupils
	The proposed NLA action would result in an unreasonable hardship to the displaced pupils

**Determination:**



**Next Steps:**



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## **APPENDIX A: SRO Unreasonable Hardship Data Request Packet**

The SRO is committed to ensuring that the Unreasonable Hardship Determination required under MCL 380.391(3), MCL 380.507(6), MCL 380.528(6), MCL 380.561(6), or optionally adopted under MCL 380.1280c is as informed as possible. Therefore, the SRO is requested that the following information be provided in an editable format (e.g., .doc, .docx, .xls, .xlsx, etc.) by Tuesday, February 1, 2017. Where possible, the information provided will be verified against previously reported and publically available data.

### **Data review components:**

- Academic
- Climate and Culture
- Professional
- Operational

## Academic Data

### Top-to-Bottom Rankings by Year

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
3	17	3	0	1

### Curricula

- ELA: MAISA units are used to guide the learning in English 9, 10, 11, and 12, after adoption last year. Two AP Language and Composition courses are offered this year to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, as well as Honors classes at the 9th and 10th grades. Additional resources to support the core curriculum: Pyramid of ELA Support Triangle ([http://www.spsd.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/SPSD\\_Pyramid\\_of\\_ELA\\_Support\\_and\\_Assessment1.pdf](http://www.spsd.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/SPSD_Pyramid_of_ELA_Support_and_Assessment1.pdf))
- Math: MAISA units for Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II. In addition, there is an honors version of each of these courses. We also offer Personal Finance, Pre-Calculus and Calculus as the fourth year math component. The Dave Ramsey Personal Finance curriculum is being utilized in the Personal Finance classes. Math received new Pearson textbooks for the 9th, 10th, and 11th grade levels. Additional resources to support the core curriculum: SPSP Mathematics Curriculum and Resources Guide.
- Science: Biology for 9th grade, Earth Science/Geophysics for 10th grade, Chemistry for 11th grade, and Physics as a fourth year option for seniors. Each class follows a pacing guide that was developed by the district science teachers which incorporates current Michigan standards (NGSS) and the MAISA units that are widely used as a guide in the state. The high school science teachers across the district developed common assessments for each unit in Biology, Earth Science/Geophysics and Chemistry. Science teachers at Saginaw High received new resources to support learning over the last year. Materials include new textbooks for all subjects, and other equipment specific to each area of concentration. Currently, we are participating in the Michigan DNR sponsored Salmon in the classroom program, cultivation of plants in our greenhouse, hosting industry scientists for days of exploration and various other activities to engage our students in the learning process.
- Social Studies: U.S. History/Geography for 9th grade, World History/Geography for 10th grade, Economics and Government for 11th grade, and AP Government for juniors and seniors. Honors classes are offered at the 9th and 10th grade levels. The History textbooks are by Holt McDougal, and were purchased for this school year, by the district. At the 9th grade level, TCI (History Alive) is used for the Honors class. Current Events is offered as a fourth year option for 12th grade. Current news articles accessed via webquests and educational websites are used as resources, as well as Up Front Magazines from Scholastic.

### Academic Intervention Systems used:

- ELA classes also complete district summative tests at the end of each unit.
- All English courses, including AP classes, complete the district writing assessments that coincide with each grade level.
- Strategic Reading utilizes the READ 180 program to provide additional support to identified students.
- Strategic math classes uses a Pearson program called On Ramp for support.
- Academic Intervention classes, at 9, 10 and 11 grade levels that tiers students according to their academic needs. The data used to tier students includes grades, test scores from standardized tests, (M-Step for 9th, PSAT for 10th and 11th), as well as district common assessments given as unit ending exams. In the tiered intervention classes, students are placed with a HQ teacher for each subject area and the teachers rotate to work with all



students over a five week period. The goal is to provide intense support at the tier II and tier III levels.

- Academic support classes after school, that include structured tutoring in all core areas, test prep for students taking the MStep and SAT exams in the spring, and credit recovery for students who need to make up credit from classes they have failed.
- All four core areas are serviced in the afterschool support classes.
- Two (2) Academic Interventionists who work in classrooms with the Tier III students on their caseload. They support ELA and Math classes. The interventionists utilize a push-in schedule for the identified students, as well as some pull out of students, as needed, for additional support.
- For Tier III students, we offer Strategic Reading and Strategic Math classes. The students are identified as the lowest 5% in performance based on grades, and test scores. In the strategic classes, students work on building skills in deficit areas that will support learning in the core subject area.

#### **Social/Emotional Intervention Systems used:**

- District wide PBIS program with Restorative Practices as the Intervention model. These practices are being used by teachers, counselors, social workers, behavior intervention staff, and administrators.
- Completed classroom circles to hold open discussion to resolve classroom issues so that all students can learn and feel safe.
- Most staff has been trained and is receptive to use of Restorative Practices at Saginaw High School.
- Currently implementing SWIS data collection as part of Promoting Positive School Culture. Currently we have our behavior matrix posted throughout the building. The 9th grades offers weekly incentives to students who show improvements in behavior and grades. The students are publicly announced at the end of the week and receive a small prize.

#### **Student Proficiency – Mathematics**

<b>Student Group</b>	<b>% Proficient or Above 2013-2014</b>	<b>% Proficient or Above 2014-2015</b>	<b>% Proficient or Above 2015-2016</b>
All Students			5.31
Native American			
Asian			
African-American			
Hispanic		10	
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander			
White			
Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic			
Economically Disadvantaged			5.06
Students with Disabilities (IEP & 504)		9.43	13.04
English Language Learners			

**Student Proficiency – Reading/ELA**

<b>Student Group</b>	<b>% Proficient or Above 2013-2014</b>	<b>% Proficient or Above 2014-2015</b>	<b>% Proficient or Above 2015-2016</b>
All Students	21.01	3.09	14.16
Native American			
Asian			
African-American	21.24		13.76
Hispanic		10	
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander			
White			
Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic			
Economically Disadvantaged	22.32		13.92
Students with Disabilities (IEP & 504)	9.09	5.66	8.7
English Language Learners			

**Student Proficiency – Science**

<b>Student Group</b>	<b>% Proficient or Above 2013-2014</b>	<b>% Proficient or Above 2014-2015</b>	<b>% Proficient or Above 2015-2016</b>
All Students			
Native American			
Asian			
African-American			
Hispanic			
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander			
White			
Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic			
Economically Disadvantaged			
Students with Disabilities (IEP & 504)	6.06	5.56	
English Language Learners			



**Student Proficiency – Social Studies**

<b>Student Group</b>	<b>% Proficient or Above 2013-2014</b>	<b>% Proficient or Above 2014-2015</b>	<b>% Proficient or Above 2015-2016</b>
All Students			
Native American			
Asian			
African-American			
Hispanic		10	
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander			
White			
Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic			
Economically Disadvantaged			
Students with Disabilities (IEP & 504)			
English Language Learners			

**4-Year Graduation Rates (if Applicable)**

<b>Student Group</b>	<b># In Cohort 2013-2014</b>	<b>% Graduated 2013-2014</b>	<b># In Cohort 2014-2015</b>	<b>% Graduated 2014-2015</b>
All Students	168	81.0%	146	79.5%
Male	78	76.9%	66	68.2%
Female	90	84.4%	80	88.8%
Native American				
Asian				
African-American	160	81.3%	138	80.4%
Hispanic				
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander				
White				
Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic				
Economically Disadvantaged	149	80.5%	108	76.9%
Students with Disabilities (IEP & 504)	44	65.9%	35	62.9%
English Language Learners				



## Climate and Culture Data

Enrollment by Subgroup<sup>2</sup>

Race	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
All Students	643	769	580
Male	314	378	291
Female	329	391	289
Native American			
Asian			
African-American	610	720	544
Hispanic	23	29	22
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander			
White		12	10
Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic			
Economically Disadvantaged	575	540	426
Students with Disabilities (IEP & 504)	149	159	114
English Language Learners			

## Enrollment by Grade

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2013-2014	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	179	208	132	124	643
2014-2015	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	146	201	170	131	121	769
2015-2016	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	234	112	102	132	580

## Special Population Percentages

	2013-2014 (%)	2014-2015 (%)	2015-2016 (%)
English Language Learner			
Students with Disabilities (IEP & 504)	23.2%	20.7%	19.7%
Economically Disadvantaged	89.4%	70.2%	73.4%

## Attendance

	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Attendance Rate (%)	90.2%	92.0%	90.4%
Percent Chronically Absent	39.2%	34.6%	42.6%
Chronically Absent Student Count	244	260	246

<sup>2</sup> Enrollment by student(s) does not necessarily indicate that the student(s) will take state assessments.

## Professional Data

## Teacher Evaluations

	# of Teachers 2013-2014	% of Teachers 2013-2014	# of Teachers 2014-2015	% of Teachers 2014-2015	# of Teachers 2015-2016	% of Teachers 2015-2016
Highly Effective	28	77.8%	27	73.0%	23	67.7%
Effective	7	19.4%	10	27.0%	10	29.4%
Marginally Effective	1	2.8%	0	0.0%	1	2.9%
Ineffective	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Total Teachers	36
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37
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34
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